

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 08245 021236Z

64

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 DHA-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W

----- 026917

R 021102Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1998

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

S E C R E T BANGKOK 8245

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING MSG SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO UDORN FROM SONGKHLA
IS REPEATED TO YOU FOR INFO:

QUOTE

S E C R E T/NOFORN SONGKHLA 082

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS TH

SUBJECT: RTG INCREASES RESETTLEMENT PACE IN MUSLIM AREAS

1. LT. GEN SAN CHITBATIMA, PEACEKEEPING DIRECTOR FOR FAR SOUTH, TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT HE IS STEPPING UP THE RESETTLEMENT OF THAI BUDDHISTS IN THE PREDOMINANTLY MUSLIM PROVINCES OF YAYA, PATTANI AND NARATHIWAT. 32 FAMILIES FROM THE NORTHEAST JUST ARRIVED IN WAENG DISTRICT, NARATHIWAT, AND MORE ARE TO FOLLOW.
2. SAN CLAIMED THAT REDRESSING THE ETHNIC BALANCE IN THE FAR SOUTH WOULD IMPROVE THE SECURITY SITUATION. WHEN I ASKED IF HE MIGHT NOT GET SOME ADVERSE REACTION FROM THE MUSLIMS HE ANSWERED "MUSLIMS HAVE THE RIGHT TO SETTLE ANYWHERE THEY WANT IN THAILAND. THAI BUDDHISTS DESERVE THE SAME RIGHT IF THEY WANT TO LIVE IN THE MUSLIM PROVINCES."

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 08245 021236Z

3. SAN'S ATTITUDE ON MUSLIM PROBLEM CONTINUES TO HARDEN, ESPECIALLY AFTER MOB KILLED ONE OF HIS OFFICERS DURING JANUARY PATTANI RIOTS. HE AND OTHER OFFICIALS HERE SEEM TO HAVE GIVEN UP ASSIMILATION IDEA, BELIEVING MALAY/MUSLIMS' CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES TOO GREAT TO OVERCOME. ATTEMPT TO INCREASE NUMBER OF NON-MUSLIMS IN PROVINCES WHERE MALAY/MUSLIMS NOW COUNT FOR 80-90 PERCENT WILL TAKE MAJOR EFFORT.

4. SCHEME ALREADY CAUSING PROBLEMS IN SENSITIVE AREAS. IN FEBRUARY MUSLIM SEPARATISTS MURDERED 9 SETTLERS AT YALA RESETTLEMENT CAMP. LAST YEAR THAI COMMUNISTS CAUSED RESHUFFLE OF ADMINISTRATION AT SATUN RESETTLEMENT CAMP. WAENG AREA HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN MALAYSIAN COMMUNIST SANCTUARY, AND CPM-RTG CLASHES HAVE INCREASED SINCE RESETTLEMENT CAMP STARTED CLEARING MORE LAND AND EXTENDING AREA. WAENG RESIDENTS PETITIONED THE KING FOR PROTECTION LAST YEAR, AND THE KING HAD SAN RESPOND WITH TROOPS. TROOPS NOW ALSO STATIONED AT YALANCAMP. IF RESETTLEMENT AREAS INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY, RTG WILL HAVE ITS FORCES STRETCHED EXTREMELY THIN THROUGHOUT SOUTH IN ATTEMPT PROVIDE SECURITY. AND SINCE ALL THREE INSURGENCIES OPERATING IN SOUTH THAILAND HAVE ALREADY USED THESE CAMPS AS FRICTION POINTS IN ATTEMPT TO FURTHER THEIR SEPARATE IDEOLOGIES, EXPECT RESETTLEMENT INCREASE MEANS MORE ETHNIC STRIFE LIKELY IN FUTURE.

5. AT SAME TIME MUST COMMENT ON EFFORT RTG IS MAKING IN ATTEMPT HOLD ONTO ITS MUSLIM PROVINCES. WHILE SECURITY IS BEING STRENGTHENED, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS ALSO INCREASING. NEW ROADS CONNECT ALL THE MAIN CENTERS NOW, AND THE COAST ROAD IS NOW OPEN FROM SONGKHLA TO PATTANI, THEREBY CUTTING OUT RELIANCE ON THE OLD SLOW ROAD THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN PASS WHICH GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVIDES THAI AND MALAY/MUSLIM AREAS AND IS ALSO A FAVORITE HAUNT OF BANDITS. NARATHIWAT ITSELF IS NO LONGER A BACKWATER: THE KING'S NEW PALACE AND REGULAR VISITS HAVE FOCUSED INTEREST AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA. ALONG WITH ITS NEW ROADS PARALLELING THE MALAYSIAN BORDER, NARATHIWAT GETS ITS FIRST AIRPORT WHICH WILL OPEN IN A FEW MONTHS. THESE TRANSPORTATION LINKS HELP ECONOMICALLY AND ALSO MEAN THAT SECURITY FORCES CAN GET INTO REMOTE AREAS A LOT FASTER.

6. BELIEVE THE ABOVE IS AN INDICATION THAT PERHAPS THE OLD SAW ABOUT THE THAI ACCOMMODATING TOO QUICKLY TO PRESSURES AND THREATS MIGHT BE UNTRUE. RTG IS MAKING SERIOUS EFFORT TO HOLD ONTO MALAY/
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BANGKO 08245 021236Z

MUSLIM PROVINCES, AND WHILE SOME OF ITS MEASURES ARE CLUMSY OR OPPRESSIVE, FACT REMAINS THAT IT IS NOT GIVING UP WILD AND WOOLY AREA WITHOUT A STRUGGLE. THIS DETERMINATION TO PROTECT THAI SOIL AGAINST ETHNIC GROUPS LONG CONSIDERED INFERIOR COULD SHOW UP ALONG THAILAND'S OTHER BORDERS IF THE THREAT THERE INCREASES.

CASTRODALE

UNQUOTE

WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, PROVINCE, POPULATION DISTRIBUTION, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO08245
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760125-0219
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604105/aaaadmme.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 SEP 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RTG INCREASES RESETTLEMENT PACE IN MUSLIM AREAS
TAGS: PINS, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006